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ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

FEBRUARY, 1845.

ELLIOTT'S THOUGHTS ON PEACE.* No. III.

How WAR IS NOW REGARDED.—No one now justifies war in itself. By common consent it is denounced as an accursed thing—worse than the pestilence which walketh in darkness—worse than the destruction which wasteth at noonday. The martial array no longer appears as a beautiful pageantry; the battle trumpet no longer delights the ear. We associate with the sword its deeds of blood, and deem it no more suitable for an ornament than the surgeon's amputating-knife. We look upon the parade of arms, and think of the death-agonies of the battle-field, and consider its pomp and display, its "form and circumstance," as unfitted for the duty of the soldier, as they would be for the public executioner. If it be necessary to destroy life in any manner, we no longer attach to it either glory or honor. There is a true democracy looking in upon the world! Each man is considered as a brother, whatever be his country or his home, or however poor or degraded he may be. Individual life is no longer considered of little value. Happiness to the people is more thought of now than the glory which associated itself in times past with the talent for human destruction.

What patriot will now tell the people that war is not an accursed thing, when it bids thousands and thousands of them abandon their wives and children, and happiness, that they may fill the ditch for other men's good; when it compels so many to sell themselves, their liberty, their rights, making them mere automata, moving at the mere nod of another, without the semblance of freedom, and this for a few dollars a month?

What Christian shall say that war is not an accursed thing, when it is known that there is not a crime that it does not sanction,—not a sin that it does not produce; practically suspending the laws of God, making robbery and murder a duty?

Who, let me ask, can say that war is not an accursed thing, when the soul sickens as it looks upon its horrid scenes of suffering and moral degradation? What! two nations exerting themselves to the utmost for human destruction—using all their skill, all their knowledge, by force and by stratagem, in the night time and in the day, on the ocean and on the land, to banish happiness from the earth, and to fill it with crime and misery! and is not this an accursed thing? Yet we are told that it is at times necessary, at times expedient, at times Christian-like. With one breath it is denounced as the worst of evils, and then it is spoken of as essential to the happiness, the well-being, the prosperity of the nation!

WAR A SUICIDAL PROCESS.—How many have been slaughtered upon the sunny fields of Spain, how often have the streets of her cities run with human blood! Ever since we can recollect any thing, have come to us the stories of her bitter wrongs, and her fierce contentions. Our sympathies are worn out for her. Murder there is a thing of course—war seems to be woven into the very texture of the nation.

* These articles, begun some time ago, have been suspended in consequence of being mislaid; but they are too valuable to be omitted even at this late hour.

How perfectly the condition of Spain refutes the position, that one sword keeps another in the scabbard; that being prepared and ready for war is the best means for the preservation of peace: that the people who would preserve their liberty should be ready to fight for it.

Will you look to Great Britain, overwhelmed with an immense debt, with more than fifty abject poor to one rich man; will you read the bills of mortality and learn that the rise of a few shillings on a quarter of wheat has ever been the death warrant of thousands, so near to starvation are her poor laborers; will you examine the ship loads of her subjects who come here, that they may not perish there; and then encourage a military spirit in these free states?

THE CHIEF SUFFERERS FROM WAR.—Know you not that glory and military honor spring directly from the misery and degradation of the people! Whose bodies are these which fill the ditch? The laborers'. Whose comforts are reduced by heavy taxation? The laborers'. Who give up their all for their country's rights? The laborers. What creates an aristocracy? What tends to an unequal distribution of wealth? Military spirit.

Will you look upon the doings in South America? There has been continued fighting there. Have the people achieved their liberties? Are human rights secured? Is human happiness safe?

WAR NOT THE CAUSE OF OUR LIBERTIES.—Americans, your independence was not achieved by the sword. It was not your valor that has secured to you your political institutions. The South Americans have fought more than you have fought, yet have not overcome their tyrants. They have been no cowards; no craven love of life has kept them from the battle. Then, brute-force, the courage to fight, the fortitude to endure, never yet in themselves gave freedom, happiness, and prosperity to our people.

If we are free, if human rights with us be secure, if equal laws, if a sound democracy here prevails where the lowest and humblest man is safe, is protected, you owe it not to your valor or to your wars. It is on the strength and purity of moral sentiment that you depend. It is on the religious principle, the love to God and to man, that has been your dependence. As high as you may rise in true nobleness of soul, in true dignity of character, so high will be your political principles—so high will be the value of citizenship in these states.

THE CHIEF QUALITY REQUIRED IN A SOLDIER.—It is health of body—physical strength, that enables man to endure the hardship of the tented-field. It is the good condition of the animal that enables him to fight. We need mere machines for the ranks of the army. To obey is the only duty. Forward is the command. Sufficient intellect to load and fire a musket is all that is wanted; the number killed is the test of merit. A well-trained horse is often more valuable in a battle than a score of men with souls!

SKETCH OF OUR NATIONAL DEBTS.

From the recent report of the Secretary of the Treasury, we give the following items:

HISTORY OF OUR DEBTS.	
Debts of revolution, &c., prior to the constitution	75,416,476
Debt to foreign creditors, Jan. 11, 1790	12,556,871
do. domestic do. do. do.	60,219,022
Population of U. S., 1790	3,977,827
Debt Jan. 1, 1800	82,976,294
Population of U. S. in 1800	5,305,920
Debt Jan. 1, 1810	53,173,217
Population of U. S. in 1810	7,239,614
War debt of 1812—14, loans	\$70,478,209
Treasury notes	36,680,794
Debt Jan. 1, 1816	107,159,003
do. do. 1, 1820	127,334,933
	91,015,566